

Appl. No. 09/482,691
Atty. Docket No. 6553D
Amdt. dated January 26, 2004
Reply to Final Rejection of July 30, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 through 20 (*Previously Cancelled*)

Claim 21. (*Previously Amended*) An implement for cleaning a surface, the implement comprising:

- a. a handle comprising a support head at one end; and
- b. a disposable and removable cleaning pad having an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein the cleaning pad has multiple widths in the z-dimension and wherein the cleaning pad comprises:
 - i. a scrubbing layer;
 - ii. an absorbent layer in direct fluid communication with the scrubbing layer wherein the absorbent layer comprises a superabsorbent material; and
 - iii. an attachment layer for releasably attaching said cleaning pad to said handle, wherein said attachment layer is essentially fluid impervious.

Claim 22. (*Original*) The cleaning implement of Claim 21 wherein the support head comprises an upper surface that is attached to the handle and a lower surface that comprises hooks for releasably attaching the cleaning pad to the support head.

Claim 23. (*Original*) The cleaning implement of Claim 21 wherein the cleaning pad has a squeeze-out value of not more than about 25% under 0.25 psi of pressure.

Claim 24. (*Previously Cancelled*)

Claim 25. (*Previously amended*) The cleaning implement of Claim 21 wherein the absorbent layer comprises at least about 15%, by total weight of the absorbent layer, of the superabsorbent material.

Claim 26. (*Original*) The cleaning implement of Claim 21 wherein the superabsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of superabsorbent gelling polymers and hydrophilic polymeric absorbent foams.

Claim 27. (*Previously Amended*) An implement for cleaning a surface, the implement comprising:

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- a. a handle comprising a support head having a top surface and a bottom surface, said support head comprising hooks permanently affixed to said bottom surface of said support head;
and
- b. a removable cleaning pad having an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein the cleaning pad has multiple widths in the z-dimension, and wherein the cleaning pad comprises:
 - i. a scrubbing layer;
 - ii. an absorbent layer; and
 - iii. an attachment layer comprising a material that is essentially fluid impervious and at least one surface which is mechanically attachable to said hooks affixed to said bottom surface of said support head;

wherein the lower surface of the cleaning pad comprises a substantially flat lower cleaning surface and at least two cleaning surfaces extending from said lower cleaning surface wherein said at least two cleaning surfaces are non-parallel to said substantially flat lower cleaning surface and wherein said substantially flat lower cleaning surface and said at least two cleaning surfaces define at least three discrete cleaning surfaces each of which being adapted to contact the surface being cleaned.

Claims 28 through 31 (*Previously Cancelled*)

Claim 32. (*Original*) The cleaning implement of Claim 27 wherein the scrubbing layer is in direct fluid communication with the absorbent layer.

Claim 33. (*Previously Amended*) The cleaning implement of Claim 27 wherein the absorbent layer is positioned between the scrubbing layer and the attachment layer.

Claim 34. (*Original*) The cleaning implement of Claim 33 wherein the scrubbing layer is in direct fluid communication with the absorbent layer.

Claims 35 through 60 (*Previously Cancelled*)

Claim 61. (*Currently Amended*) A cleaning pad having an upper surface and a lower surface, a bottom layer, an absorbent layer in direct fluid communication with said bottom layer and an upper layer positioned above said absorbent layer wherein the cleaning pad has multiple widths in the z-

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dimension, and wherein ~~the cleaning pad~~ said absorbent layer comprises a superabsorbent material such that said absorbent layer has a ≥ 1200 absorbent capacity of at least about 15 g/g.

Claim 62. *(Previously Submitted)* The cleaning pad of Claim 61 wherein ~~the cleaning pad comprises~~ said bottom layer is a scrubbing layer wherein the width of said scrubbing layer is greater than the width of said absorbent layer such that said scrubbing layer is removably attachable to a cleaning implement, and an absorbent layer.

Claim 63. *(Previously Submitted)* The cleaning pad of Claim 62 wherein the absorbent layer comprises at least about 15%, by weight of the absorbent layer, of the superabsorbent material.

Claim 64. *(Currently Cancelled)*

Claim 65. *(Currently Amended)* The cleaning pad of Claim ~~64~~ 61 wherein ~~the cleaning pad further comprises~~ said upper layer is an attachment layer for mechanically attaching the cleaning pad to a handle of a cleaning implement, and wherein the absorbent layer is positioned between the scrubbing said bottom layer and the said attachment layer.

Claim 66. *(Previously Submitted)* The cleaning pad of Claim 61 wherein the superabsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of superabsorbent gelling polymers and hydrophilic polymeric absorbent foams.

Claim 67. *(Previously Submitted)* The cleaning pad of Claim 61 wherein the lower surface of the cleaning pad comprises two or more discrete surfaces each of which contact the surface being cleaned.

Claim 68. *(New)* A cleaning pad comprising:

- a scrubbing layer;
- an absorbent layer in direct fluid communication with said scrubbing layer; and
- an upper layer positioned above said absorbent layer, wherein the width of said scrubbing layer is greater than the width of said absorbent layer such that said cleaning pad has multiple widths in the z-dimension and said scrubbing layer is removably attachable to a cleaning implement, and wherein said cleaning pad has a ≥ 1200 absorbent capacity of at least about 5 g/g.

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Claim 69. (New) The cleaning pad of claim 68 wherein said upper layer is fluid impervious.

Claim 70. (New) The cleaning pad of claim 68 wherein said cleaning pad has a t₁₂₀₀ absorbent capacity of at least about 10 g/g.

Claim 71. (New) The cleaning pad of claim 70 wherein said cleaning pad has a t₁₂₀₀ absorbent capacity at least about 15 g/g.

Claim 72. (New) The cleaning pad of claim 71 wherein said cleaning pad has a t₁₂₀₀ absorbent capacity at least about 20 g/g.